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THE TIMES-DISPATCH FOUNDED 1884. THE DISPATCH FOUNDED 1890.

WHOLE NUMBER 18,209.

RICHMOND, VA., TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1910.

THE WEATHER TO-DAY—Fair.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

WHOLESOME FEAR ALL THAT'S NEEDED

Democrats of Smyth County Too Sanguine of Success.

DO NOT SEE HOW SLEMP CAN WIN

Conditions Seem Favorable for Great Victory at Polls in November—People Are Weary of Republican Misrule, and Ready to Vote for Change.

BY ALEXANDER FORWARD, Special Correspondent of The Times-Dispatch.

Marion, Va., March 28.—If somebody or something will put wholesome fear into the Democrats of Smyth county it will be the better for Henry C. Stuart's chances of election to Congress. The average Democrat will not admit the possibility of his defeat. Here, where the Democratic nominee spent all his years of his childhood and early manhood, where he has had wide business interests, where he is known and admired by nearly every citizen, there seems to be a feeling that his personal worth, coupled with the general Republican predilection and the special reason why this is not likely to be a good year for Mr. Slemp, will insure his success.

Now, personal worth and popularity is a splendid asset in a party nominee, and the trouble of the opposite party make good campaign material; but these things don't carry elections. Some of the best men in the world have been defeated at the polls, and unless the man who casts the ballot is informed of the faults and mistakes of the opposition, they will not influence him. One has but to think of the round 40 majority which Smyth county gave Mr. Slemp over Mr. Byars only sixteen months ago to realize that nothing in the world but education, effort and organization can turn this into a Democratic victory, and the sentiment is for Mr. Stuart, but the figures are against him. The trick can be done, but a supreme effort is necessary.

Cost of Living Problem.
Mr. Stuart came to this county in 1861. Possibly he will not object if the secret is here revealed that he was at that time five years old. He lived here until after his graduation from Emory and Henry College and the completion of his law course at the University of Virginia. He is the owner of large boundaries of timber lands here, but in his business life he is best known as a dealer in cattle. Of late years large industrial interests have sprung up in Smyth county, and a necessary result the national problem of income and cost of living is more of a factor than in strictly agricultural communities. The laborer, skilled or unskilled, finds that while the necessities of life are costing him a constantly increasing amount of money, his earnings have not kept pace.

He feels that there is something wrong. If he is well informed he knows how the combinations of capital control the food supply of the country and that such practices are the result of a protective tariff. This individual is being forced to do his own thinking.

A Marion Republican who earns his daily bread with his hands, said today: "I have a wife and five children. I make \$12.5 a day. With the strictest sort of economy I can barely buy enough to keep body and soul alive and pay the rent. Should sickness come, I should have to go in debt. I have Cleveland's last administration I made 75 cents a day and lived more easily than I do now."

This man will vote for Henry C. Stuart. He is convinced that trust control of the Republican party's policies is responsible for conditions.

A Difficult Task.
County Chairman J. De Buchanan has a difficult task. He is fostering Democratic enthusiasm as earnestly as Chairman S. S. Stimmerman, in Wythe, but in addition he must guard against the over-sanguine feeling which prevails.

Just now potatoes are furnishing an object lesson to the farmer. In this section and in Wythe, especially, everybody seems to have raised potatoes last year. The producers, being for the most part able to hold the product, refused offers of 60 cents a bushel, holding them instead for a high midwinter market. Now they are a glut on the market at Wytheville at 40 cents. The average man is living on them.

The moral is this: there is no working potato trust. Just why the moneyed interests have not seized upon this last shred of food is a mystery. Perhaps the farmers all over the country hoarded the supply and brought about the condition. Perhaps the magnates forgot. At any rate they see now that it is not the producer who gets the money which the consumer pays, and the business man and the professional man, the railroad man and the laborer in the Ninth District are paying 20 and 22 cents a pound for meat which their farmer friend, a few miles away, got less than 7 cents for a few months ago.

People Are Thinking.
If any one believes the people are not thinking about these things, let him talk to them. It may be true that the average voter does not trouble his mind about foreign policies or bread-and-butter or Pinchot investigations, but he troubles his mind considerably when he puts up his money at the store for goods which are sold at three or four times the cost of material and manufacture.

These things are appealing to the voters of Smyth. They know Henry Stuart and believe in him. They believe he is going to be elected. But they are mistaken in thinking it can be done without effort.

BRIBE TO ELECT PERCY

Charge Made by Member of Mississippi Senate.

LEGISLATURE HAS REAL SENSATION

Grand Jury Indicts Planter for Offering \$1,000 to Senator Bilbo for His Vote, but Refuses to Indict Latter for Accepting the Money.

Jackson, Miss., March 28.—From a maze of accusations and denials bearing on the charge that money was offered a member of the State Senate in exchange for his vote for L. Percy, the recently successful candidate for the United States Senate from Mississippi, the surface developments to-night, after one of the most strenuous days Mississippi's capital has experienced in years, are:

A grand jury indictment charging L. C. Dulancy, of Issaquena county, a prominent planter, with tendering a bribe to State Senator Bilbo.

The refusal of the grand jury to indict Mr. Bilbo for accepting a bribe. A resolution pending in the upper branch of the State Assembly demanding the expulsion of the second party to the alleged transaction held in abeyance until to-morrow morning, when a statement will be made by Mr. Bilbo.

Bilbo's Story.
All this came in rapid sequence after a formal declaration by Senator Bilbo that during the recent legislative caucus he had been approached by Mr. Dulancy and tendered \$1,000. If he would lend his support to Mr. Percy, that a part of the amount, \$450, was to be paid immediately, the balance after the election of Senator Percy; that he accepted the tender to be used as evidence in support of charges that irregular methods were being used to encompass the defeat of Mr. Vardaman, of whom he was a supporter, and that the money he received he handed to a local minister with a statement of facts. This, Mr. Bilbo declares, he told the House of Representatives.

According to Mr. Bilbo, he planned to have the alleged transaction occur in a certain room in a local hotel; that he arranged for a witness to be taken to another room in the hotel, and that there were no eye-witnesses. That the charge is without foundation. He insisted that those who favored the election of Mr. Percy as against the several other candidates, including former Governor James K. Vardaman, W. A. Percy, of Memphis, a brother of Senator Percy, in Jackson, and in vigorous terms declared the charges groundless, as does Mr. Dulancy.

Up to a late hour to-night Dulancy had not been arrested.

Action Deferred.
In the Senate, until late in the afternoon, the members remained in executive session, thrashing out the charges, considering a resolution presented by Senator Bilbo, relating to the expulsion of Mr. Bilbo. At the request of the latter, however, action was deferred until to-morrow to permit of his conferring with friends.

Each side insists that a thorough investigation will be had, and to this end nearly a score of the State funds at the hands of the Governor of the State, former Congressman John Allen and others prominent in State affairs.

Besides the developments of to-day, an investigation is pending seeking an accounting in detail of the disbursement of the Georgia Supreme Court, rendered to-day. The Columbia Woodmen is a fraternal beneficiary organization, claiming a membership of 15,000 in several States, and having a large cash fund.

Following charges of mismanagement of the affairs of the order, Frost was recently elected to the Eminent Council. Frost refused to recognize the authority of the council, and the courts were asked to determine who is legally entitled to exercise control of the order. The decision to-day reverses the ruling of the Superior Court and confers the unequalled control of the order in the Eminent Council.

The faction ousted from control included besides Frost, former Governor Hoke Smith.

STURGIS SENTENCED

Must Serve Three and One-Half Years for Bank Theft.

Washington, D. C., March 28.—Three years and a half in the penitentiary at Leavenworth, was the sentence imposed to-day in Criminal Court here upon John Ward Sturgis, a twenty-two-year-old bookkeeper, formerly in the employ of the National Savings and Trust Company, who obtained \$3,000 from the institution by means of a check he wrote on account. After taking the money Sturgis left the city and was captured recently in New Orleans.

CONTRACTORS ARRESTED

Charged With Working Men More Than Eight Hours a Day.

BREWER CLAIMED WITHOUT WARNING



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE DAVID J. BREWER.

STIRS SENSATION AMONG EGYPTIANS

Despite Warnings, Roosevelt Scathingly Denounces Assassination of Premier Ghali.

Cairo, March 28.—Ex-President Roosevelt's outspoken warning to the Nationalists in his speech to-day before the Egyptian University has created a great sensation. It is reported that determined efforts were made to dissuade him from referring to the assassination of the Premier, Boutros Pacha Ghali and the political situation, but Colonel Roosevelt delivered a scathing denunciation of the assassin, and as strongly condemned those who would condone such an act.

Some apprehension is felt at the possible attitude of the resentful Nationalist party, and the authorities are exercising extraordinary vigilance and are prepared to take extreme measures if any manifestation occurs against Colonel Roosevelt.

Referring to the assassination of Premier Boutros Pacha Ghali, Mr. Roosevelt said: "All good men, all men of every nation whose respect is worth having, were inexpressibly shocked by the assassination of Boutros Pacha Ghali. It was a greater calamity to Egypt than a wrong to the individual himself."

"The type of man that turns assassin is the type possessing all the qualities which alienate him from good citizens; he is the type producing poor soldiers in time of war and worse citizens in time of peace. Such a man stands on the pinnacle of evil and infamy. Those apologizing for or condoning this act, by word or deed, directly or indirectly, encouraging such an act in advance or defending it afterward, occupy the same bad eminence. It is of no consequence whether the assassin is Moslem or Christian, or of no creed, or whether the crime was committed in political strife or industrial warfare. The rich man's hired act, performed by a poor man, whether committed with the pretense of preserving or of obtaining liberty, is equally abhorrent. In the hands of all decent men, and in the long run, equally damaging to every cause the assassin professes."

STRIKE VOTE ORDERED

Railway Company and Employees End Negotiations.

Cleveland, O., March 28.—A strike vote was ordered taken to-day on the Lake Shore Michigan Southern Railroad by the officers of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Order of Railway Conductors. The order was issued following the breaking of the negotiations which have been carried on with the road for the last three days. About 20,000 men are involved.

The end of the negotiations came with the rejection by the union officials of a counter-proposition which had been offered by the railroad. The original demands of the men were rejected a couple of days ago. The result of the strike vote will be known on April 8.

While neither side will discuss the causes of the failure to agree, it is understood that the break occurred on the question of working conditions, both sides being willing to compromise on the subject of wages.

The Vice-President A. L. Gregg, of the Order of Railway Conductors, and Vice-President A. P. Whitney, of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, will open negotiations with the management of the Nickel Plate System in this city for a new working agreement pending the canvassing of the strike vote.

"YOU'RE A TRUMP"

Roosevelt's Remark to Man Who Gave Three Gallons of Whiskey.

400 MERRYMAKERS DIE IN BALLROOM

Perish in Flames or Are Crushed in Panic.

CAUGHT IN TRAP WITH DOOR NAILED

Pleasure Seekers Crowd Building When Decorations Catch Fire, and in Few Minutes Place Is Turned Into Heap of Ruins and Charred Corpses.

Mate-Szalka, Hungary, March 28.—The village of Oskego and the adjacent districts have been thrown into mourning by a terrible disaster which occurred at the former place last night and resulted in the death of between 300 and 400 persons and the serious injury of 100 others.

A public hall was held at the hotel of the village, where the coachhouse had been fitted up as a ballroom. It was a great barn-like structure, decorated with tinsel-dry June branches left from a previous entertainment, to which were added other decorations and Chinese lanterns. The festivity attracted pleasure-seekers from the whole surrounding country, and the building was so packed just before the ball commenced that the single door which afforded entrance and exit was nailed up to prevent the admittance of scores who clamored outside.

While the dancing was in full swing a pine branch caught fire and the fire spread with astonishing rapidity. A dreadful panic ensued, the revelers losing their heads completely. Many of them, with flames shooting out from their garments, rushed toward the exit, where a surging mass was jammed together. Women and men fell and were trampled under foot. Those in front vainly endeavored to tear open the door, but were crushed helplessly by the pressure of the crowd behind. The roaring and crashing of the flames mingled with the shrieking shrieks of the doomed throng.

Soon the roof crashed in, the blazing wreckage falling upon the helpless victims, and many of those who hitherto had escaped the flames were struck down by beams or buried under the debris. The scene was horrible.

When the door finally was broken open a few persons escaped, but most of these collapsed before they got far. Inside the building were heaps of charred corpses, and heart-rending screams and groans were audible from among the ruins. A detachment of troops was immediately ordered to the scene to clear the wreckage and help bury the dead.

The official estimate, as given to-night, states that 250 persons perished, but it is believed that the actual toll will prove much larger than this, as many persons have not been accounted for.

MUST PAY HER BILLS

Brokaw, Divorced, Asked to Settle for Wife's Gowns.

New York, March 28.—To lose his wife by a court decree of separation and yet be held liable for her bills is the experience of W. Gould Brokaw, a millionaire yachtsman, whose wife recently won a separation and \$30,000 annuity from him.

Brokaw, who is a resident of New York, is now being sued by Mrs. Brokaw for \$2,140 for gowns furnished Mrs. Brokaw from November 16, 1908, to January 21, 1909. Brokaw set up a defense, claiming that he had given an allowance from him at that time and that the gowns were a luxury and not a necessity.

If the suit, filed by Justice Putnam at Minoa, L. I., to-day denied his motion and ordered the case put on the calendar.

STEALS GOVERNOR'S TREES

Hadley Offers Reward for Thief Who Despoiled Orchard.

Jefferson City, Mo., March 28.—Governor Hadley will give a reward of \$50 for the arrest and conviction of the man who stole eight peach trees last night. The Governor went out to his farm to-day, and made the discovery that the trees had been pulled up by the roots.

He measured the footprints of the man who pulled up the trees. His tracks were revealed clearly in the soft earth. The Governor turned the measurements over to the constable.

\$85,000 IN STAMPS STORED BY THIEVES IN TWO BIG TRUNKS

Robbers Got Away With \$85,000

Robbers Took Post-Office Booty to Nearby Hotel, and After Repacking Shipped It Away.

It will be officially announced to-day, when Post-Office Inspectors Alther and Saffel, of the Washington division, have completed the task of examining the records in the office of Cashier W. McKim McKim, at the temporary post-office building here, that thieves who entered the vault early yesterday morning carried off \$85,000 in booty. Nearly all of this is in stamps of various denominations, and it is said that less than \$2,000 in currency was stolen. The statement given out late last night was that the inspectors were unable during all of yesterday to determine the exact figures, but that \$85,000 will not be far from the right amount, and, if anything, the loss will be a little above that figure.

Chief Inspector Harrison, who is here to conduct the work of capture, says there is a standing reward of from \$500 to \$1,000 for each of such criminals, but that the Postmaster-General is at liberty to supplement this if he desires. Mr. Harrison, with his assistants and Chief Detectives Scherer, of Chesapeake and Ohio, were together late last night, but would give out no information at the conclusion of their conference.

Within an hour after their arrival in Richmond for the purpose of solving, if possible, the greatest post-office robbery mystery that has ever occurred in this city, Chief John R. Harrison, of the Washington division of post-office inspectors, secured the information that the rogues who cracked the safe in the office of Cashier William McKim McKim, in the temporary post-office building, removed \$85,000 in stamps to a room in the basement of a nearby hotel, and there packed their booty into two huge trunks, and on an early morning train, perhaps at 4:50 o'clock, shipped them to Washington. It is even said that the inspectors have in their possession the numbers of the railroad checks, but in Washington, where the fugitives are believed to have succeeded in transferring the baggage, the clue was lost, and until a late hour last night nothing definite had been learned which may lead to a capture.

Room at Nearby Hotel.
All that is known of the identity of the man who secured the storage room in the basement of the hotel is that he rented it from J. A. Connelly & Co., rental agents, presumably for the purpose of displaying an assortment of goods on Friday, and that he gave the name of ———, purporting to be a traveling salesman for a New York novelty company. When a Times-Dispatch reporter entered the room at the hotel at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon two inspectors were there, one of whom was Mr. Saffel, who had been careful to leave nothing behind by which they might have been traced.

The names of the suspects and the name of the hotel are known to the Times-Dispatch, but are withheld at the request of Postmaster Edgar Allan. The Times-Dispatch is in possession of government detectives at work on the case.

Description of Leader.
The empty trunks are said to have been removed to the storage room shortly after 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, and a man, described by Henry Lauterback, clerk at the hotel, as having been stoutly built and about five feet six inches tall, and with a red face, at once ordered that the room be thoroughly cleaned. He gave Lauterback 25 cents for the job. A little later this stranger pulled down the shades over all the windows, and over the glass door leading into the lobby he pasted brown paper. There was no way by which the thieves could have been seen while at work packing the stamps into the trunks.

Ernest Waller, the night clerk, says he heard a wagon drive up to the side entrance of the hotel yesterday morning between 3 and 4 o'clock, but he had no reason to suspect anything, and did not make any report until the inspectors went to the hotel yesterday afternoon and questioned him about the actions of the men. From the hotel the inspectors went to the office of Connelly & Co., and there they learned that ——— secured the room last Friday and paid for it for eleven days. The description given by Mr. Rohleder, who carried out the contract for the rental agents, leads the inspectors to believe that this stranger and the man who stole the stamps were one and the same.

Deliberately Planned.
The cracksmen were too shrewd to board at a room in the same hotel at which they proposed to carry out an important detail of the gigantic robbery, and it is understood that they were unable to locate them at any other hotel, although they are believed to have been in Richmond certainly since last Friday. That the room was rented for eleven days is taken to indicate that unless the opportunity had presented itself yesterday morning the exports would have chosen some other future time to commit the deed. Lauterback says the trunks were brought to the hotel by a negro driver who runs a team on the street on his own account, and it is not believed he had any knowledge of the purpose of his yesterday afternoon work.

Chief Harrison, with three of his men, were closeted with Chief L. L. Scherer, of the Chesapeake and Ohio detective department, in the latter's office on the third floor of the Chesapeake and Ohio building, at Eighth and Main Streets.

There are theories that the trunks containing the booty are still in Richmond, but the best evidence that the inspectors have dropped this line of work is that the two-day team was hired from the Richmond Transfer Company.

At the close of the 1901 session Buckley sent in his bill for \$15,000, but he had trouble in getting the money. Late in the fall session collected a fund to pay Buckley, and sent the money to him.

Memory at Fault.
But the lawyer's memory was at fault when asked what he meant by "the crisis." He denied that he had made any campaign contributions to senatorial candidates, and retorted hotly that Mr. Hotchkiss should not inject such meaning into the letter.

Mr. Hotchkiss jumped to his feet, and will read the lesson of this letter to the people of this State, he shouted, and let them judge what was meant by a letter like that.

Buckley, furious, exclaimed: "It's all a grandstand play, this investigation."

On October 14, 1904, Buckley wrote to Sheldon: "Regarding your suggestion of doing something to help the gentleman in the Saratoga district, it will have to be done next week."

Further letters showed that Sheldon had sent a check for \$500 to Buckley for "our friend from Saratoga," and had attempted to induce two other companies to contribute a like amount. He failed, and Buckley sent back the \$500, saying he thought the Saratoga man should have at least \$1,000.

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BUCKLEY GRILLED AT GRAFT HEARING

Lobbyist Is Kept Under Merciless Fire of Questions.

FAST SUMS FOR LEGISLATION

Inside Workings of Lawmaking at Albany Laid Open to Glare of Publicity.

New York, March 28.—William H. Buckley had a most uncomfortable time of it to-day in the fire insurance inquiry. State Superintendent of Insurance Hotchkiss kept up mercilessly his examination into the lawyer's services in connection with legislation at Albany, for which Buckley received many thousands of dollars from the fire insurance companies, and once he denounced the witness bitterly.

Aside from Buckley's testimony, the most interesting incident of the day was the identification by George Seward, president of the Fidelity and Casualty Company, of Edward A. H. Brown, of Middletown, N. Y., as the man representing State Senator "Big Tim" Sullivan in 1892, who asked for \$10,000 on behalf of Sullivan to have a bill killed. This is alleged to have been done in the State prison. Brown later denied that he had ever had such a conversation with Seward or had ever seen him before.

\$21,400 for One Bill.
William B. Smith, general counsel of the Travelers' Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., testified that he paid \$21,400 to Buckley in 1903 to put through the liability reserve bill.

Virtually all the evidence to-day was dug up by Mr. Hotchkiss from letters exchanged between Buckley and the late George P. Sheldon, who, as president of the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of Brooklyn, collected from various insurance companies the money which was sent to Buckley.

The day was taken up chiefly with Buckley's work for the companies in 1904. Buckley agreed to do the work at Albany that year for \$10,000. The Buckley-Sheldon letters told of the insurance legislation and the triumph of Buckley, who did not even permit "strike bills" to be introduced. One letter from Sheldon to Buckley, dated August 29, 1904, referred to the coming election of State Senators, and asked him to bear in mind the wishes of his friends.

In a letter which a little aid might be derived in the matter of election expenses, and thus save our doing anything after the Legislature comes together.

Buckley, however, did not approve altogether of this method. He wrote that "as a rule it isn't altogether desirable, because our friends forget that they have been helped when the crisis comes. It is better to be prepared to meet the crisis when it comes."

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